



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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## *Memorandum*

TO: Operations Committee

DATE: February 1, 2008

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Operations

W.I.: 1236

RE: Funding Agreement - Implement Ramp Metering Corridors: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)

Staff recommends that the Committee authorize a funding agreement with the Santa Clara VTA in an amount not to exceed \$2,051,000 to activate metering equipment at 40 on-ramps in three freeway corridors in Santa Clara County by the end of 2008: (1) southbound Route 85 from Almaden Expressway to Cottle Road, (2) southbound Route 101 from Embarcadero Road to De La Cruz Blvd, and (3) Route 87 from I-280 to Route 101.

**Figure 1** shows freeway corridors in Santa Clara County where ramp meters are operational, installed but not operational, and the three corridors affected by the proposed project. The steps needed to implement ramp metering in these three corridors include the collection of existing traffic flow data, development of metering rates for each on-ramp, and repair or replacement of loop detectors as necessary. In addition, a before-and-after evaluation of each corridor will be conducted. Based on Caltrans' current staffing, it would take up to three years to activate and evaluate these corridors. To expedite this schedule, VTA has offered to serve as the contracting agent for consultant assistance, working in close coordination with Caltrans, to activate and evaluate the three freeway corridors.

### Background

The Transportation 2030 Plan includes approximately \$2 million per year for high priority system management investments. MTC Resolution No. 3609 directed staff to work with the Bay Area Congestion Management Agencies to develop a list of high priority system management investments for the RTP funds. The development of system management priorities was based on principles, location, and benefits, as follows:

### Principles

1. Sustain existing investment
2. Expansion in high priority corridors
3. Completion of remaining corridors

### Benefits

1. Clear incidents as quickly as possible
2. Manage congestion; increase efficiency
3. Provide information to other agencies and the public

### Location

1. Ten most congested freeway locations
2. Bridges, fwy-to-fwy interchanges
3. Goods movement routes
4. Recommendations from TMC & CHP

### Other Considerations

1. Geographic equity
2. Early implementation
3. Leveraging state/federal dollars
4. Implementation of a 'model corridor'

These criteria were used to develop the initial \$20 million list of 11 high priority projects. The first two years of funding is being used to upgrade Caltrans' system of CCTV cameras, which addressed the top two priority projects on the list. The third year of funding was used (a) to implement ramp metering on San Mateo Route 101 between Route 92 and Santa Clara County, which was project number 11 on the priority list, and (b) to fund the Freeway Performance Initiative. Most of the remaining projects have been included in either a CMIA corridor project or Caltrans' SHOPP program, and thus will be funded through other sources.

The proposed project is consistent with all of the principles listed above. Ramp metering has been shown to be highly effective in reducing freeway travel times while increasing freeway throughput. Ramp metering equipment has been installed in several parts of the Bay Area. **Figure 2** presents corridors where ramp metering equipment has been installed, and whether the ramp metering has been activated. Freeway segments with metering equipment ready to be activated represent the fastest and lowest cost option to address traffic congestion.

MTC has assisted with the evaluation of several ramp metering projects, including Ala-880 (I-980 to Dixon Landing), eastbound Ala-580 (I-680 to Santa Rita), SM-101 (Route 92 to University), and eastbound Ala-580 (El Charro to Greenville). MTC is currently assisting with the development of ramp metering projects, including SM-280, SM-101, and Ala/CC-80.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that this Committee authorize the Executive Director or his designee to negotiate and enter into a funding agreement with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority in an amount not to exceed \$2,051,000 to implement ramp metering on Route 85, Route 87, and Route 101.

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Ann Flemer

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## REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

### Summary of Proposed Funding Agreement

Work Item No.:	1236
Contractor:	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, San Jose, CA.
Work Project Title:	Funding Agreement to Implement Ramp Metering
Purpose of Project:	Implement and evaluate ramp metering on three freeway corridors in Santa Clara County
Brief Scope of Work:	Turn on existing ramp metering systems on southbound Route 85 from Alamden Expressway to Cottle Road, Route 87 from Route 101 to I-280, and southbound Route 101 Embarcadero to De La Cruz.
Project Cost:	\$2, 051,000
Funding Source:	CMAQ/SAFE
Fiscal Impact:	Included in the FY 2007-08 Budget
Motion by Committee:	That the Executive Director or his designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a funding agreement with Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency to implement ramp metering on three freeway corridors, and the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to set aside funds for such funding agreement in the amount of \$2,051,000.
MTC Operations Committee:	Approved: _____ Sue Lempert, Chairperson
Approved:	Date: February 8, 2008